

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-4 as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or added terms are shown with underscoring. Also, please add new claims 5-12 as shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A cleaning apparatus for a nozzle having a slit-like discharge opening in ~~the~~ a lower end thereof, comprising:

a cleaning tank ~~which is filled with~~ containing a cleaning liquid; and

a cylindrical long-length brush which is disposed in the cleaning liquid within said cleaning tank so that ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis of said brush is parallel to said slit-like discharge opening,

wherein ~~the~~ a length of said long-length brush is substantially the same as ~~the~~ a length of said nozzle, and said brush is rotatable around the longitudinal axis ~~thereof of the brush~~ and can be reciprocated in ~~the~~ a horizontal direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and also in ~~the~~ a vertical direction.

2. (Currently amended) The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a hair structure of the long-length brush is arranged obliquely with respect to the longitudinal axis of the brush ~~so as to be in~~ such that the hair structure contacts with the lower end of the nozzle to be cleaned in an oblique direction.

3. (Currently amended) A cleaning apparatus for a nozzle having a slit-like discharge opening in ~~the~~ a lower end thereof, comprising:

a cleaning tank ~~which is filled with~~ containing a cleaning liquid; and

two cylindrical long-length brushes which are disposed in the cleaning liquid within said cleaning tank so that ~~the~~ longitudinal axes of said brushes are parallel to the slit-like discharge opening,

wherein said two long-length brushes are located in a positions where the hair structures thereof are in contact with each other so as to sandwich the lower end of said nozzle therebetween, and

wherein the a length of each long-length brush is substantially the same as the a length of said nozzle, and each brush is rotatable around the longitudinal axis thereof ~~of the brush~~ and can be reciprocated in the a horizontal direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and also in the a vertical direction.

4. (Currently amended) The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1-3, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a brush cleaning means for scraping a material attached to the long-length brush, is provided within the cleaning tank.

5. (New) The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 2, further comprising a brush cleaning means for scraping a material attached to the long-length brush, provided within the cleaning tank.

6. (New) The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 3, further comprising a brush cleaning means for scraping a material attached to the long-length brush, provided within the cleaning tank.

7. (New) The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 3, wherein a hair structure of the long-length brush is arranged obliquely with respect to the longitudinal axis of the brush such that the hair structure contacts with the lower end of the nozzle to be cleaned in an oblique direction.

8. (New) The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 1, further comprising a mechanism which moves said long-length brush in the horizontal direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the brush and another mechanism which moves the long-length brush in the vertical direction.

9. (New) The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 3, further comprising a

mechanism which moves each said long-length brush in the horizontal direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the brush and another mechanism which moves the long-length brush in the vertical direction.

10. (New) The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 1 further comprising a comb provided within the cleaning tank which scrapes material attached to the long-length brush as it rotates.

11. (New) The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 2 further comprising a comb provided within the cleaning tank which scrapes material attached to the long-length brush as it rotates.

12. (New) The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 3 further comprising a comb provided within the cleaning tank which scrapes material attached to the long-length brush as it rotates.